Employment Guarantee Scheme

†*474. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to constitute a National Fund under the "Employment Guarantee Scheme";

(b) the initial amount required for the said fund;

(c) in what manner the financial resources would be mobilized for the said National Fund;

(d) who would be the controlling authority for the fund; and

(e) whether CAG and Parliamentary Committee (Financial Affairs) would be empowered to scrutinizing to the said Fund?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill (NREGB) 2004 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 21.12.2004. The Bill has been referred to the Standing Committee on Rural Development by the Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha for its examination and recommendations. Clause 20 of the NREG Bill provides for the following:

"(1) The Central Government shall, by notification, establish a fund to be called the National Employment Guarantee Fund for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The Central Government may, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, credit by way of grants or loans such sums of money as the Central Government may consider necessary to the National Fund.

(3) The amount standing to the credit of the National Fund shall be utilized in such manner and subject to such conditions and limitations as may be prescribed by the Central Government."

(e) Clause 24(1) of the Bill provides that the Central Government. may, in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, prescribe appropriate arrangements for audits of the accounts of the scheme at all levels.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.